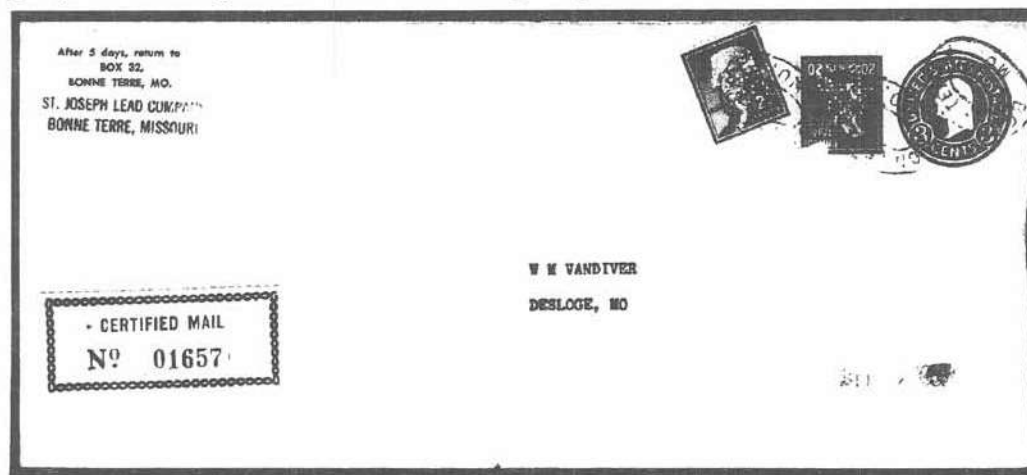


How did the St. Joseph Lead Company get from St. Joseph to Bonne Terre?

The editor needs help solving a mystery involving the small town of Bonne Terre, Missouri. The mystery revolves around three U.S. perfins: S159 (SJL/CO), S160 (SJR/CO) and S283 (STJ/LCO).

The S159 pattern is identified in the U.S. catalog as that of the Bonne Terre Farming & Cattle Company. The S160 pattern is identified only with a Bonne Terre postmark. S283 is identified as the pattern of the St. Joseph Lead Company of St. Joseph. That's where the mystery comes in.



In a recent club auction, he purchased a cover bearing two copies of S159, postmarked Bonne Terre, MO, with a printed corner card saying "After 5 days return to Box 32, Bonne, Terre, MO, and with a rubber stamp corner card reading St. Joseph Lead Company, Bonne Terre, Missouri.

In what way are the Bonne Terre Farming and Cattle Company and the St. Joseph Lead Company connected?

It's worth noting that St. Joseph, the origination point of the famed Pony Express, is in the northwestern part of Missouri, just north of Kansas City. Bonne Terre, on the other hand, is in the southeastern part of the state, south of St. Louis. They're not exactly close.

Does anyone else have any of these three patterns on cover? Does anyone know of a connection between the three patterns?

Attempts to find a St. Joseph Lead Company in either St. Joseph or Bonne Terre have so far proven unsuccessful.